(d) if so, the number of farmers suicide due to agrarian distress for last five years, year-wise, district-wise, gender-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid down on the Table of the House.

Second green revolution for pulses

2615. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a paper compiled by ASSOCHAM which has recommended that second green revolution is called for to produce high yielding variety of pulses to enhance their annual production and to meet their growing demand and to contain rising prices;

(b) if so, whether Government have studied the strategy suggested by the ASSOCHAM and what Government are doing to enhance the production of pulses in the near future; and

(c) the names of the pulses for which high yielding varieties are available in the world and what research has been done in the country to develop the variety of high yielding pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Government is aware of issues highlighted by ASSOCHAM. The strategies such as productivity enhancement, improving the efficiency of resources/inputs, processing and value addition and genomics enabled crop improvement are being implemented for enhancing the production of pulses. Basic, strategic applied and anticipatory research on different aspects of pulses have been strengthened under National Agriculture Innovative Project, Strategic Research Network Projects on Priority Areas and Indo-US Knowledge Initiatives.

Further, with a view to enhancing the production of pulses in the country and achieve self-sufficiency, Government has approved the implementation of National Food Security Mission (NFSM) comprising rice, wheat and pulses in identified states/districts during Eleventh Plan. Area expansion of 4.47 million ha through intercropping and utilization of rice fallows and productivity enhancement have been targeted during Eleventh Five Year Plan under NFSM - Pulses.

In order to develop high yielding varieties of pulses, research on improved plant type, multiple disease resistance, biotic and abiotic stresses, genomics enabled pulses improvement transgenic for gram pod borer in chickpea and pigeonpea and CMS based hybrids in pigeonpea, introgression of genes trom wild relatives and widening of genetic base of improved varieties is under way.